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UNCLAS GUATEMALA 000909

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: GUATEMALA ANNOUNCES SUPPORT BUT NOT CO-SPONSORSHIP
FOR CUBA RESOLUTION

Foreign Minister Jorge Briz publicly announced on April 13 that Guatemala will vote for the Cuba resolution drafted by Honduras. Briz added that he had issued precise instructions to the Guatemalan delegation in Geneva. Most major dailies carried the story, with one paper reporting that the Cuban Ambassador to Guatemala had refused to comment. The same article quotes opposition Congressman and former Guatemalan Ambassador to Geneva and the U.S., Antonio Arenales, pointing out that Cuba has no excuse for refusing a visit by the UN High Commissioner's Personal Representative--something that Guatemala has done.
HAMILTON